#### Dedicated to Miss Rosa Mandell.

#### "ONLY A YEAR AGO."





DECEIVED MEDICAL AUTHORITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

A Mental Homicide the Subject-In Spite of Its Absurdity It Was Widely Copied. Discussed, Denounced and Honestly Credited-A Big Hoar.

It has been a favorite pastime of mine for years to study popular fallacies and to make calculations as to the percentage of acceptances thereof by people of everyday common sense. It is as astonishing as it is interesting when you come to figure it out how a statement, plansinly put and leavened with just enough fact to give it life, will be swallowed without question by men who should refuse to accept baid assertions as fact by the very logic of their positions. I mean by this that a bit of ingenious sobbistry should not convince a A problem fulse in its proposition should not confuse a mathematician, and, to come to the concrete and more practical, the description of a survival operation that never did and never could take place ought not to deceive an anatomist and surgeon. Let me illustrate this

I cannot recall the precise date, but it was in the latter part of 1881 or early in 1882 that a New York newspaper contained an article describing a most remarkable operation in cranial surgery, which, it was alleged, had been performed by a Philadelphia physician upon his man-servant. The operation was not one of necessity nor of expedience-it was made simply to satisfy the operator by ocular' demonstration that the functions of the motor and sensory centers were independent, or, more specifically speaking, that the motor could exist and act without the presence of the entire sensory system. To emonstrate this our experimental friend induced his faithful servitor to surrender a few ounces of his brains. He was placed under ether, and after a flap of scalp had been thrown back a circular inclsion was made in the right and left parietal region of the skull. The pieces of bone cut out by the trephine were placed in an antiseptic liquor, a surgical spoon was introduced, first into one cavity and then into the other, and the operator removed from each side about an ounce of brain from the convolutions which his researches led him to believe governed the seat of cerebral activity. The bony lids were replaced over each circular opening, the scalp flaps put back, and the patient was ready for bed, where he remained for several days apparently oblivious to his surroundings. the involuntary functions of the body proceeded as before, and when the man had aufliciently recovered from physical shock

he was put on his feet. He could not maintain his equilibrium in a stationary posture, but when started walking would continue the motion of legs and feet until he brought up against an obstruction that hindered farther prog-ress. The physician congratulated himself on the nicety of his measurements and calculations, but as time went on he realized that while he had committed no crime for which the statute books provided a penalty he was nevertheless, to all intents and purposes, a murderer. He had not extinguished the spark we call life, but he had destroyed the ego, or, if the term might be employed, he had committed mental homicide. The story went on to tell how the victim was eventually placed in an asylum for the insane, where be was regarded as a congenital idiot and so en-tered on the books of the institution. His master, it was said, brooded to such an extent that he eventually died of remorse, leaving behind him a bistory of the operation and its melancholy result, and from this posthumous paper the story was writ-

It so happened that I was an intimate friend of the author of the queer yarn, and he was anxious to learn whether the scientific world would give even a contempty-

papers. These he mailed to various medical journals and scientific societies both in Europe and America. I'll confess surprise when some three weeks later I saw an Edinburgh periodical take up the subject accept it as a fact and criticise the physi cian in the severest terms for having dared to triffe with the human brain when there was no necessity and where there could be

The gravest apprehension was entertained for any medical society that would permit its membership roll to be disgraced with the name of any practitioner who in a mistaken devotion to science could forget that he was a man and the member of a profession whose mission was not to destroy, but to build up, not to add to the weight of human woe, but to take from it. To clinch the argument it was shown that an operation on one of the lower animals would have been of equal value to determine the exact seat of certain cerebral functions as though made on a human be-

One or two western newspapers reproduced the article without comment, and a Melbourne weekly, copying from one of these, said in a footnote that it was an 'audacious act that none but a Yankee surgeon, regardless of criticism or results, vould undertake." In none of these publications was there any challenge of the verncity of the statement per sc. As a matter of fact, the only basis of truth for the publication was the fact that a medical student, who had a strong predilection for the study of nervous diseases, had evolved a theory that a condition like that described might be produced by such an operation. He did not place his thoughts in the assumptive future, but in the assumptive past, and his written record made it appear that a surgeon had actually found a man footenough to permit him-self to be deprived of his senses completely without reward and without hope of re-

From this the story was woven, with such ingenuity as to completely cloak the vital point-viz, that in 10,000 men it would be impossible to find one, even if weary of life, who would be willing to undergo such a transition even for a previous reward of temporal comforts. This particular fallacy is one that would possibly be maintained by the thoughtful more than by the thoughtless .- New York Mail and

## A BUSHEL OF CORN.

#### Its Progress From the Farm to the Consumer of Whisky.

Illinois is the great corn state, and Peoria is the center of its most prolific belt. Peorin is a great grain market, and especially for corn. Vast quantities of the golden grain are shipped into this city for general distribution and loaded into its mammoth elevators by the hundreds of thousands of bushels. A great deal of corn is shipped from Peorla, but a vast quantity is used at bome. There is more corn used in Peorla than in any three cities in the Union, even though those cities be New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. The reason is obvious. Peoria is not only the center of the great distilling interests, but here are located two of the greatest sugar houses in the country. Down the capacious maws of the great distilleries are poured every day 20,000 bushels of The sugar houses use from 5,000 to 10,000 bushels more each day in the year. To supply this demand the product of 1,000 acres of rich corn lands are duly shipped into Peoria for home consumption. Aside from these fully 5,000 bushels are used daily for other purposes. So that it is safe to estimate that fully 9,000,000 bushels of corn are used in this city annually for manufacturing and other purposes. The greater part of this is manufactured

It is wonderful to consider the changes made by a bushel of corn in its transition from the owner's crib to the glass of the consumer. These changes are various and farreaching. They are other than finan-

A NEWSPAPER YARN. ous denunciation to it, With that purpose in view he marked the article in 15 or 20 ment of value. Corn was selling, we will MILITANT PLANTS. say, for 35 cents per bushel. It came all the way from Nebraska perhaps, where it brought but 25 cents. In transit two dealers received a commission of a cent each. The railroad company received 8 cents for its freight and other charges. The distiller paid 35 cents. Ha took and converted it into 41/2 gallons of finished spirits and fed one of his steers on the refuse. The distiller sold the spirits to a local dealer for \$5.12, of which Uncle Sam received \$4.05 as tax on the spirits, leaving a balance to the distiller of 72 cents after he

had paid 35 cents for his corn. The spirits, after being well watered and compounded, are sold at a profit by the compounder and rectifier to the dealer, who sells it out at 15 cents a drink. The 434 gallons have swelled to nine, and before it gets through it swells many a head and also the revenue of the city where its lines

So that in its travels from the Nebraska crib to the Chicago saloon that bushel of corn has increased in value from 25 cents to many dollars, and with its constant running mates has furnished employment at least to 50 men or more and has contributed to both the national and municipal

To resume, that bushel of corn was thus scattered on the highways of business and pleasure: Farmer, 25 cents; railroads, 88 cents; commission men, 2 cents; distillers, 72 cents; feeder, 10 cents; Uncle Sam, \$1.05; compounder and rectifier, 25 cents; retail dealer, \$10; city, \$3. The consumer got whatever was left in the spirits, each necording to his strength or weakness .- Peoria Herald.

Henry Villard Quotes Mr. Edison.

Henry Villard is said to be a man with a total lack of appreciation for humor. This story is told of him as happening when he was president of the old Edisor General Electric company. Mr. Villard got the idea that the Edison company ought to build an electric locomotive. He went to Thomas A. Edison and asked him to design one. Mr. Edison gave him his reasons for not wanting to undertake the task and refused to do it. Mr. Villard then ordered to of the engineers of the Northern Pacific railway to submit designs. for electric locomotives, intending to have Mr. Edison combine the best points of all into one. The drawings and specifications arrived in the course of time and made a formidable mass of data. Mr. Villard had it all sent to Mr. Edison with the request to evolve a design from the plans. Edison replied by letter to the effect that the only man who could design an electric locomotive from this stuff was crucified over 1,800 years ago," Mr. Villard soon after met Mr. Edward H. Johnson and told him of the trouble he had been to, and that Mr. Edison had refused to make the design.

"And do you know, Johnson," said Mr. Villard in conclusion, "Edison said that all those Northern Pacific engineers ought to be crucified."-Electrical Review.

## Memory.

"The science of memory," said James W. Dodd, "is very little understood, and the more it is investigated the further one gets from the solution of the difficulty. I am acquainted with a man who could never learn to write or to calcualte, although a large sum of money was spent by his wealthy parents in attempts to educate him. To this day he can scarcely distinguish one letter from another, but he can read easily from sight in some manner neither physicain nor philosopher can understand.

"He is fond of reading out loud and seldom stumbles over a hard word, although he cannot spell out the ensiest ones. Strange to say, he has a most wonderful memory of what he reads and will repeat the plot of a Look, with the exact quota-tions of leading incidents and expressions, after reading it once. His general habits indicate mental weakness in various ways, and the only memory he seems to have in in regard to printed matter."

THEY LOOK LIKE FIGHTERS, AND THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE.

The Pandanus Reflexus Has a Row of Fighters In the Palm Family-The Jim Corbett of the Collection. "All organic beings, without exception,

tend to increase at so high a ratio that no district, no station, nor even the whole surface of the land or the whole ocean. would hold the progeny of a single pair after a certain number of generations. The inevitable result is an ever recurrent struggle for existence. It has truly been said that all nature is at war; the strongest ultimately prevail, the weakest fall." Something like this statement by the most celebrated of the naturalists will occur to the bservant person without any skill in natural history who visits the Phipps conservatory and tries to make out the meanings of the curious features which so many of

For instance, the big Pandanus reflexus, which no visitor will pass unnoticed. It has a militant look from the root up, its leaves or whatever they are to be called reminding one of the sneight two handed sword-that is, they do at first glance, but one must not trust that, or he will be deceived. The leaf is not like a sword blade; only half of it is. The whole leaf is of the shape of a hulf opened book. On each edge and along the center is a row of spines, which pierce like needles. It is en dogenous-that is, increases by internal growth and mongation at the top and has no bark to strengthen and protect it. Judging from appearance, one of those long leaves would be easily broken by the push of an animal, and to keep animals at their distance it has sent out these spines, which guard it from three directions. A young spimal which ran against them once would remember them the next time, just as calves and colts soon learn not to play close to a barbed wire fence. The pandanus, which is one of 50 species of a genus which inhabits tropical climes from Africa to Polynesia, as it sticks out its keen spines and threatens to puncture the hide of anything which comes near it, seems to say, like the Scotch thistle: "Nobody can monkey with me with impunity. I am a fighter." That is one reason why it is so big. It has made room for itself. In nature might is right—the weaker goes to the wall.

Some other fighters will be found in the palm house. One is easily found by its label, Latania barbonica, and it is particularly interesting in that it is an example of a plant protecting its young, if that is the way to say it. Three outer stalks, strong and well developed, each with its row of sharp spines, inclose and defend the tender central stalks. The leaf of a central stalk, one may see, is not allowed to pass the older stalks, lest it suffer damage. They keep it behind them as a mother might push her child behind her in time of danger. This young leaf is kept in leading strings until the stalk has grown so that it can reach out over the others and take care of itself. Meantime it will produce a set of spines and join the other stalks in the great fight which is to determine what plant is fittest to survive. The instinct of animals is wonderful, but the instinct of the plant is equally so. That may be seen in the larger latania, which states on its label that these palms were discovered in south China in 1818. It has developed a body, and in that at the base of the branches the fruit grows. Care must be taken of that, for if the seed is not ripened they will not reproduce, and the species will suffer to that extent. See the spines on those branches around where the fruit lies. Let an animal try to get into it, and he would come out with a sore hide. The plant would scratch him like a cat. The paudanus is creet, and so its spines stick straight out. It wants to prevent animals

to protect its fruit, and so its spine points whward, as much as to say to a thief below, "You come up here, and I'll jab your eyes out." In still another palm, the great one just inside the main entrance to the conservatory, the spines are 8 inches long, look like stilettos and form a per fect cheval-de-frise. Man, with all his thinking how to make that obstruction to Spines Which Pierce Like Needles-Some | an enemy most complete, has not surpassed the genius of nature in so directing the points of these stilettos as to cover every possible approach. As a fighter this big Phenix spinosa is the Jim Corbett of the palmhouse, and it is great on style.

That is what some of the other fighters are not, as the cactuses. They take all sorts of shapes, in stature rising from creeping stems-though there is none so large in the conservatory-to trunks 30 feet high, but are neither beautiful when small nor majestic when great. They are too abeminably stupid to put on style. But what should one expect of a plant which wild grows in hot, stony places and when cultivated is entirely happy in a sandy loam mixed with brick dust? One might as well expect style in those little black Italians of the pipe line, who have been reared on mush and cucumbers. And the pity of it is these cactuses are American from way back. Pretty nearly their only redeeming feature is that they can fight. Big or little, they are ready to do battle, unless it be those granddaddies with the long white hair, which, like many men, are aged looking without being venerable and make one think they had best betake themselves to another world for all the good they are doing in this Whoever it was that put the cactuses and the sleepy and leather binined young alligators in the same house in the conserv atory had an inspiration, for they surely go together. But that is not to say that these plants are uninteresting. Far from They offer many suggestions as to the humors of nature, and in their sphere they are useful. If they would only wake up and look alive! They seem doubly stupic to one who goes to them from the spirites plants in the other parts of the conserva tory .- Pittsburg Times.

## The Cause of Sties.

Sties usually occur in succession. Whether one or more appear at the same time we will find that the first is usually the forerunner of a number of others. This points to the fact that some constitutional disorder, some slight modification of a normal condition of the body, usually underlies the sty forming tendency. Con stipation will very often be found at such

periods. Often we will find that it occurs when there are other evidences of derangement -skin eruptions, poor appetites, general malaise, etc. So called "delicate children" are more liable than others. Hence the fre quent occurrence of sties may indicate the desirability of consulting the family physician, -Babyland.

## She Unchecks Horses.

It is related of Miss Trella Foltz Toland, an actress in San Francisco, that she per sistently unchecks horses that she finds standing with their beads strained back according to the present ungraceful and indefensible custom. She says she did this for over 100 borses in Kansas City and Denver and received a letter of thanks from the president of the Ennsas City Humane society. Here's a practical philanthropy open to everybody, without waiting for organization or officers. - Woman's Magazine.

The "Laughing Plant" of Arabia. The laughing plant produces black, beanlike seed, small doses of which, when dried and powdered, intoxicate like laughing gas. The person indulging in the drug dances, shouts and laughs like a madman for about an hour, when he becomes exhausted and falls into a deathlike sleep, which often lasts several hours and leaves the victim in an awful state of nervfrom pushing against it. The palm wants | ous collapse.—St. Louis Republic.



# The Flour Awards

"Chicago, Oct. 31 - The first official announcement of World's Fair diplomas on flour has been made. A medal has been awarded by the World's Fair judges to the flour manufactured by the Washburn, Crosby Co., in the great Washburn Flour Mills, Minneapolis. The committee reports the flour strong and pure, and entitles it to rank as first-class patent flour for family and bakers' use."

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